

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
28 December 2000 (28.12.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 00/79038 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: D06P 1/00, (74) Agent: MURGITROYD & COMPANY; 373 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8QA (GB).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/02290

(22) International Filing Date: 23 June 2000 (23.06.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

9914510.4	23 June 1999 (23.06.1999)	GB
0009783.2	20 April 2000 (20.04.2000)	GB
0011752.3	17 May 2000 (17.05.2000)	GB

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,

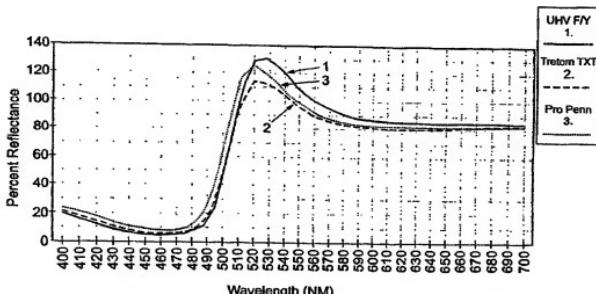
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,
DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR,
HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,
LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ,
NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: DYED FABRIC MATERIAL, METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME AND USE OF THE FABRIC MATERIAL IN THE MANUFACTURE OF SPORTS BALLS



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(57) Abstract: A method of dyeing fabric material which comprises the step of contacting said fabric material with a bleaching agent prior to or simultaneously with contacting said fabric material with a dyestuff providing said colour. The fabric material so obtained is suitable for use in sports ball manufacture, especially tennis ball manufacture. The coloured fabric material preferably includes wool fibres and exhibits the following characteristics after dyeing: i) a chroma value of 100 or more; ii) a lightness value of 95 or more; and iii) a reflectance value of 120 or more. Preferably the dye is a yellow fluorescent dye.